NEW AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM FOR CENTRAL CALIFORNIA

Award Number:
2008-02172

Award Amount:
$250,000

Institutions Involved: West Hills College Coalinga & West Hills College Lemoore

CSREES\USDA Relevant Priority or Mission Area: Hispanic-Serving Institution, Science, Engineering, Technology & Math (STEM)

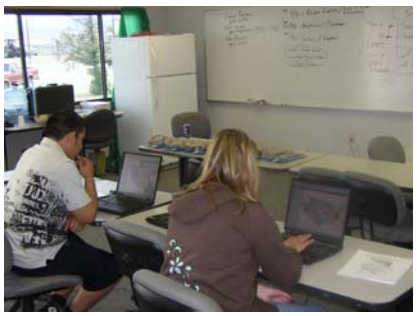
USDA Collaborator: WHC Coalinga and WHC Lemoore will be working with the local **NRCS** office to create a pipeline of students entering agricultural engineering careers.

Objectives: The objectives for this project are as follows: a new faculty position to teach AET will be hired; comprehensive AET Curriculum & Program will be developed, engineering equipment that will support lecture and laboratory courses will be purchased, Agriculture Ambassadors will recruit, the first cohort of students will begin the AET program, and project management, evaluation, and dissemination will be provided as assessed by periodic and annual third party evaluations.

Activities: The activities align with the objectives and include: creating and advertising faculty position, hiring faculty member, develop AET curriculum, add new curriculum to the catalog, obtain equipment quotes and purchase equipment, Agricultural Ambassadors will recruit at high schools and workshops, students will enroll and continue the AET cohort program and project staff will meet with external evaluator to evaluate program.

Evaluation : An external evaluator will be employed to visit the project within 30 days of contract award, again at least quarterly prior to the 23rd month to clarify and assess the project objectives and related products, results, and outcomes. The advisory committee will be asked to review project activities, new course appropriateness and effectiveness. Participating industry members will be asked to evaluate course material and comment on employability of student completing the program. The project will incorporate the assessment observations and data into project management meetings to provide for on-going program improvement. Ultimate effectiveness will be established by creating a new Ag Engineering Technology Program with a variety of applied academics and hands-on courses.

Expected Impact: The Outcomes and Impact resulting from this project will include: career mentoring of 200 students, 60 students enrolling in pre engineering classes, 60 college students enrolling in the Agriculture Engineering Technology program, 15 college students participating in experiential internships with local Ag industry leaders and utilization of new equipment for further coursework expansion.



WEST HILLS COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

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